

IBIS FLYER

Balnarring Primary School

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Principal and Assistant Principal's Report

December 5th, 2019

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2019 – can you believe it!!!!???

At this very busy time of the year, it is so important that we all draw on our resilience skills and uphold the school promise to be both *respectful and caring*.

Last Wednesday evening we held a special celebration for our School Council President, Bradley Phillips. Bradley has been our President for the past 11 years and has done a remarkable job as a most supportive spokesperson for the school. His ability to listen to all sides of a discussion, provide a clear summary of the views expressed and suggest a way forward has been outstanding. Bradley's youngest child is now in Year 6 and so we wish him all the very best as he *FINALLY graduates from Primary School!*

As you would have heard in the media, the Department has introduced clear guidelines regarding the use of mobile phones in schools. From the beginning of the 2020 school year, any child with a phone at school will be asked to hand it to their teacher who will place it in a secure locked safe until the end of the school day.

What a fortnight it has been for camps!

Our Year 1's and 2's enjoyed a fabulous time at Somers cooking damper, rock climbing, carrying their torches on the night walk and performing their amazing skits on the stage. Despite the wintry conditions, our Year 3's also had a fabulous time. They worked together to "overcome their fears" on the giant swing and the crate tower activities. They loved their cabins and all the reports about the food were that it was *delicious!*



Thank you to Jessica Wynne our music teacher for organising such a lovely soiree last week. Children learning to play a musical instrument had the opportunity to perform to a most appreciative audience. It is fabulous to give these budding musicians the opportunity to showcase their talents.



A team of men from the new Peninsula Men's Shed worked closely with Jana and the Year 5's to build a buddy bench. It is beautiful! The ward councillor, David Gill, officially declared the Buddy Bench open at a small ceremony with representatives from the Mornington Peninsula Shire, the Men's Shed and our excited Year 5's. The bench provides a safe spot for anyone feeling a little lost in the playground. If you get an opportunity in the next couple of weeks do go and have a look, the men even added our school emblem, the Ibis, into the bench design!



Whilst looking at the seat, stroll across to the Foundation/Year 1's river bed. The river bed is an extension of the boat play area and is providing hours of 'engineering' fun and co-operative play for our youngest students.

As we enjoy these special end of year activities together, we are also focussing on the 2020 school year. Susan Horvath has requested 12 months leave. Susan has been a much valued member of staff for the past 23 years and has worked with many of our students (and their families) to skilfully support their academic and social growth. We all wish her a wonderful 12 months. Pea Saunders has also requested an extension to her leave and will now not return in 2020.

We take great delight in welcoming two new members to our teaching staff. Georgia Minotti and Zach Byrns. We believe they will be wonderful additions to our learning community; we know that all students and families will make them feel most welcome.

On Monday 16th December we will hold our final assembly for 2019 beginning at 2:00 pm in the school gym. The assembly will be followed by a **Helper's** Afternoon Tea in the library. To all the many parents and friends who have helped in our classrooms, in the grounds or on committees this year, we hope you are able to join us for this little celebration as our small way of saying a BIG thank you for your wonderful assistance.

On Thursday the 19th December the children will meet with their 2020 teacher and classmates. For those students feeling a little anxious, this is the perfect time for you to encourage them to use their *confidence and resilience* skills. Teachers have spent many hours placing children in groups to optimise both their learning and social development. Please support the decisions that have been made and convey a **positive attitude toward your child's new class**. Also on the 19th December the children will bring home their semester 2 reports, so all 2019 tasks will be completed.

Friday the 20th December is a room organising and clean-up day. We finish at 1:15 pm so we understand if you would prefer to keep your children home with you. If you do choose to keep your child/children home, please enter an absence note on Compass.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the 2019 school year. We hope you have a lovely, safe summer break with your amazing children.

Finally we hope to see you all at The Common tomorrow night for the special Balnarring Community Christmas event; *our junior school students have been enthusiastically practising for their performances!*



Rhonda Stephens and Sandy O'Meara

ATTENDANCE: All attendance must be entered onto Compass. Please ensure that if your child is absent or going to be late, that you record this on Compass prior to 8.30 am daily.

WALKING BUS:

The walking bus departs from the Skate Park at 8.30 am every morning and departs school for the return trip at 3.20 pm. Please be at the meeting point on time to meet your children.

SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL—BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS:

Supervision before school commences at 8.30 am and after school until 3.30 pm.

Bendigo Bank School banking: Bring your bank books on TUESDAYS.

Uniform Shop dates: (Please note that samples only are kept onsite)-Cash only—10th December-10.15am to 10.45am

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE COMING UP

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT DATES SOMETIMES CHANGE AND UNFORSEEN EVENTS MAY BE ADDED. CHECK COMPASS FOR UPDATES.

MONDAY	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				6 December *Assembly Yrs F-6 -Curriculum presentation FC *Christmas Carols at The Common 6 pm
9 *Yr 3 & 4 Water Safety	10 *2020 Foundation Orientation	11 *Yr 1 & 2 Water Safety	12	13
16 *Assembly Yrs F-6 2.00 pm *Helpers Afternoon Tea in the Library	17	18 *Yr 6 Graduation	19 *Step Up Day *Reports come home	20 END OF YEAR 1.15 PM FINISH

Have a wonderful Summer break



CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

Outside the school office you will see our Christmas tree. This tree provides a place for our school community to donate gifts and items of food for families in the local community, who are struggling during this Christmas period. All we ask is that you choose a tag from the tree, purchase a gift for that aged child and place it under the tree. Perhaps also whilst you are shopping in the next few weeks, you may like to pick up something to place in our food hamper too. Thank you once again for 'caring for others at Christmas time!'

PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS INTO SCHOOL BY TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2019.

Western Port Community Support Hastings will be collecting the gifts on Wednesday 11th December 2019.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January

- Friday 24th Book Collection Day - 9.00 am until 11.00 am (If you have paid for your books, they will be taken to your child's classroom. You do not need to collect them).
- Tuesday 28th Staff return to school
- Wednesday 29th Students in Year 1 to Year 6 begin school today
- Thursday 30th Foundation students begin today (half groups for half a day).

February

- Wednesday 12th Meet the Class Community
- Wednesday 19th Guest speaker for all parents - Susan McClean - Cyber Safety Solutions

March

- Thursday 12th Curriculum Day—Pupil free day
- Friday 27th Last day of term 1

2019 GRADUATE REFLECTIONS

Foundation – Issy S

Walking through the gates of my new school, with giants stomping around everywhere I was nervously **excited! As I held hands with my mum, I saw Tilda's friendly face looking at me. I went over to her and Sienna** sitting on a chair. We all had the biggest smiles on our face talking about prep. Then the music started to play. Not knowing what to do, I ran to class with the stampede of kids to see Natalie J, my prep teacher, greeting everyone at the door.

Year 1 – Maddy L

In grade 1, I thought it would be super cool to say I had an 18 year old sister, so for the first piece of **writing I did in grade 1 I wrote "I moved house on the weekend and my sister had a birthday she turned 19!" literally word for word. Looking back on it now I don't really know why I did it, but it sure is one of the funniest memories of grade 1.**

Year 2 – Steel N

At the start of grade two I was really nervous because I was in a grade 2/3 class but after a little bit I felt relieved because they were quite helpful, sometimes they would even let me see what the answers were that was the best because I would be the first year two to accomplish the work. In term 3 I remember having an excursion to Somers beach I could remember it like it was yesterday my favourite part of the beach was when we had a swimming contest it was fun

Year 3 – Lily C

Now I'm in grade 3 with my teacher Theresa, now I'm going to improve more this year in my learning and other work, oh and I'm in a class with my fabulous cousin Georgie it's the best. Briars camp was tremendous also we went on the; flying fox, obstacle course, and made huts, archery, and more it was the best. In my cabin I had Georgie, Issy, Indi, Tilda, and Millar also myself. I had the most terrific time of my life at camp, there were a few of funny and cheeky people at camp and also the food there at Briars camp was delicious.

Year 4 – Angus W

Sovereign Hill was magnificent. It was such a great camp. All of the things we did, like going to the lolly **shop and dressing up in 1850's clothes. One of the greatest things we did was when we'd go bowling like** they did ages ago. We hung out with our friends, eating lollies. I enjoyed Sovereign Hill so much, and I really appreciate all the teachers for making Grade 4 camp so much fun.

Year 5 – Annika K

2018 was the year I started Grade 5! Mr Cornell was my teacher again. I was very excited to have Mr C. again because he was such a good teacher. Every day after snack, Mr Cornell would take us out to **the wetlands to read to us. He read the book 'Pax'. It's about a fox that got rescued by a boy. Point Leo** Surf camp was one of my favourite camps – except for the surfing! So on the last morning instead of the 6:45am session I stayed in bed.

Year 6 – Jake S

What a great experience! We have been so well-prepared for high school. Extra homework, more independence and leadership roles. It felt great to have the belief from others that we could do well. The highlight was Urban Camp when we saw the bass player busking – we were so tempted to dance in the street, but a local man beat us to it with his robot moves.



Thank you Balnarring Primary School

